Missouri History
S.C.C.

MISSOURI STATE MUSEUM

Capitol Building, Jefferson City, Missouri

THE MISSOURI STATE MUSEUM is administered by the Missouri Division of Commerce and Industrial Development, a state agency created by the Legislature to foster and promote a dynamic and balanced economy for the state.

Gerald Massie, Assistant Director of the Division of Commerce, is Acting Director of the State Museum.

GOVERNOR

Warren E. Hearnes

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(COVER: A view of Science Hall in the State Museum. The display area, in the west wing of the Capitol, has thousands of displays pertaining to Missouri's wealth in natural resources plus exhibits related to the growth of her giant industries.)

The fortuitous destruction of Missouri's fifth Capitol on the night of February 5, 1911, was perhaps one of the best things that ever happened to the state. The holocaust resulted in the ultimate building of one of the most imposing edifices housing a state government to be found in the United States.

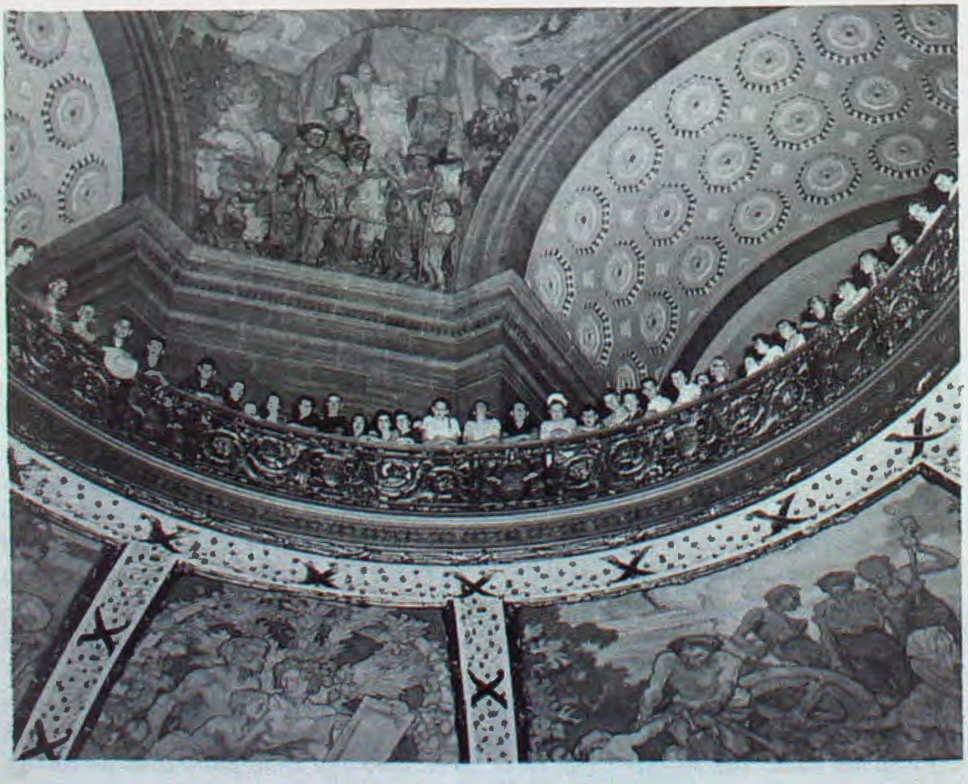
The present capitol building (see pages 12 & 13) was completed in 1918. Its exterior is of Carthage (Missouri) stone, a pure white crystalline limestone marble of hard and enduring texture. The floors of all the corridors, the rotundas and the treads of the stairways are of the same material.

A visitor to the Capitol is usually awe struck at its grandeur and enters its portals with a feeling of humility compared to a view of the Grand Canyon, the great pyramids or into the world's largest cathedral. It stands as a symbol of achievement to a great state and its relativity to the growth of the world's most powerful nation.

The State Capitol is the permanent seat of government for the people of Missouri and is also the permanent home of the state museum. This brochure is designed to pictorally review a small portion of the thousands of displays and exhibits in the museum. We trust that in a small way it will transmit to the reader the great role Missouri people have played in the illustrious past, in the building of a nation; her great contributions to the present day economic welfare of that nation and her important role in the future of mankind as he embarks into the space age.

Throughout its 50 year history the Missouri State Museum has continued to grow in popularity. It is expected that an all time record number of visitors will be recorded in 1970. It has been estimated that museums attract more people each year than two of the nation's most popular sports. Indicative of the popularity of the Missouri State Museum is that fact that each year more than one-half million people walk through its halls. The visitors come from every state and from more than 60 foreign nations.

The obvious reason is that each year adds new opportunity for researchers to discover fresh material to include in the storehouse of treasures; new and improved methods of preparation and presentation are being used – and perhaps most importantly, people in increasing numbers are finding that hours spent in a museum are a stimulating pleasure as well as an educational benefit. This has given new significance to museums country-wide.



Pictured is one small group of the thousands of school children who visit the Missouri State Museum each year. In this storehouse of wonders they see many exhibits portraying those things which heretofore they had known only from textbooks. Teachers find the museum to be the ideal place to take children on annual class trips.

The young people here have found the great circular walkway on the third floor the ideal place to look downward to the floor of the rotunda. Imbedded in the marble floor they are able to see the Great Seal of the state in shining brass. Looking upward they may look to the top of the dome and see but a few of the outstanding oil paintings that adorn the walls and hallways of Missouri's seat of government. It is said the oil paintings in the state Capitol rank second to none in the entire nation as they depict the growth of Missouri and its place in the history of the United States.

A hush fell over the world Sunday July 20, 1969 as Astronaut Neil Armstrong inched his way down the steps on the leg of the Lunar Module, known as "Eagle", to become the first man to set foot on the moon.

Millions watched televised pictures of the epic moment in the safety of their homes and offered silent prayers for the safe return of America's space pioneers. Man's age old dream of setting foot on the moon had been fulfilled.

At a cost of $24 billion the United States had won the race to break the bonds of mother earth and place man on another solar body. Thousands of companies across the country contributed, in one way or another, in the making of the vehicle that carried Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. and Michael Collins to their rendezvous with destiny.

In early 1970 President Richard M. Nixon, presented the Honorable Warren E. Hearnes, Governor of Missouri, with samples of the moon surface brought back to earth. The Governor was also presented with a small Missouri flag which was carried to the moon on the historic flight.

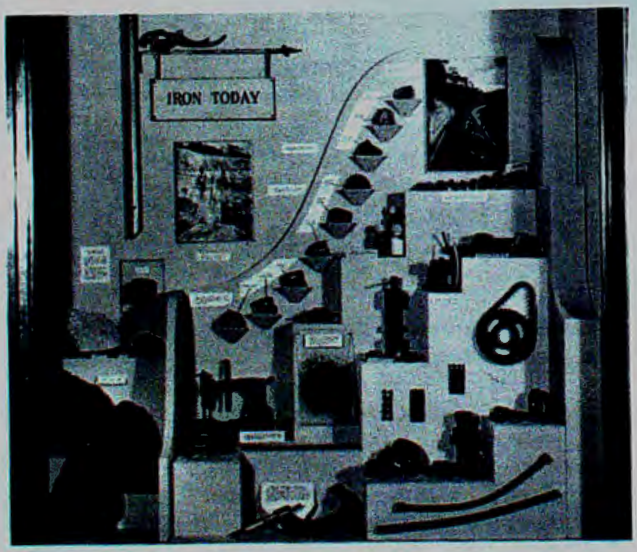
Museum technicians have built a beautiful display case for exhibiting the moon fragments and the flag. In the display are also outstanding color pictures taken by the astronauts as they neared the moon, stepped on its surface, and of the earth on their return flight. The exhibit was unveiled for the general public to see on March 17, 1970. It now stands in the rotunda of the Capitol and is creating unusual interest among visitors. Thus, the museum not only holds a strong attraction for those interested in the history of mankind, his present achievements, but also portrays his quest for greater scientific knowledge.

On entering Science Hall in the west wing of the Capitol the first thing to greet the visitor's eye is the huge Soils Map of the state. The map was constructed by the Department of Soils, College of Agriculture, University of Missouri in 1959, and graphically answers many questions on what nature gave to man in the area now known as "Missouri". It tells among other things how the great expanse of farmlands north of the Missouri River were formed by an ancient glacier which slowly swept southward to the Missouri River and then receded. Below the river, it is noted, the foothills of the Ozark Mountains begin to rise. The mountains are said to be the oldest on earth. The visitor will note the deep and rich soil of the "bootheel" section of the state which is world renowned for its production of cotton, soybeans and a dozen other profitable farm products. Viewing the Soils Map gives one the feeling of seeing the state through the eye of an astronaut, soaring around the globe thousands of miles above the earth.

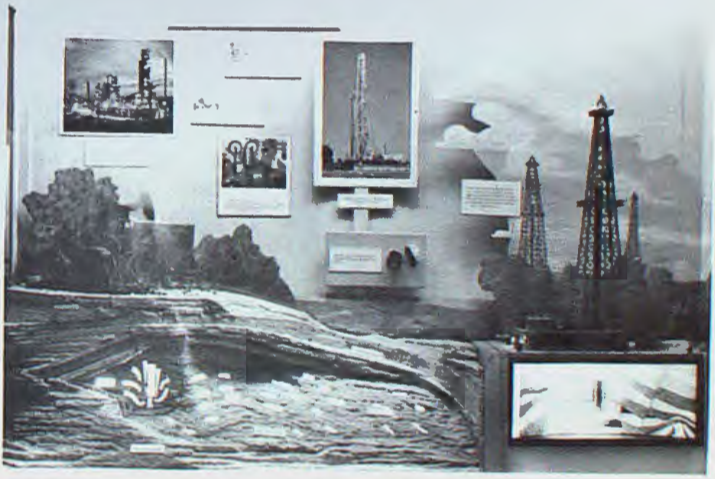
In the creation of the earth probably no other area was so endowed with such a wide variety of ores and various forms of minerals. Housed in a beautiful case in Science Hall are but a few of these resources found in Missouri. They bear strange sounding names: Iron Pyrite; Onyx Stalacite; Atunite; Hyalite; Calcite; Farnklinite; Scapalite; and Stibnite – to name a few. And then there are the more familiar minerals such as Zinc, Lead and Copper ores. All of the petrified wood in the nation is not in the forests of the great Southwest. Not by any means. It is also found in Missouri and is on display in the well lighted exhibit constructed for the purpose.

Coal has long been the servant of man. It furnished him heat long before the days of the steam power plant. In Missouri there is found an abundance of one of the world's most valuable and usable minerals. While strip mining is common in the state at depths of up to fifty feet below the surface, there are veins of coal to be found at depths of 240 feet below the earth. Deposits are found in nearly every section of the state. It took nature a period of 260 million years to store this wealth in the earth for man to use today in a variety of ways. Coal is a source of tar, gas, coke and oil.

The importance of iron to early Missourians stemmed from their difficulty in getting enough of it, which led to the later mining of ore and the erection of stone blast furnaces for smelting. A continuing program of methods for reducing the ore to iron has resulted in the state having a most profitable and basic industry. The usage of iron and its by-products forms the very foundation of man's requirements for tools, implements, transportation equipment and a multitude of other uses, as he strives for an enriched life. Iron today contributes untold millions of dollars to the state's annual economy.



The Missouri Indian, after whom the state is named, used clay in small quantities for the products they needed in their simple way of life. These primitive people little realized they were using a product that was only to be found in the region they had selected for campsites and hunting grounds. Today clay mining is an integral part of the state's economy. In fact the clay known as Diaspore is not found in any other section of the United States. Various forms of clay are used in the production of soil pipe, pottery, brick and modern tableware. Firebrick made from Missouri clay was used in the construction of the renowned battleship, Missouri, on which the surrender papers were signed in 1945 ending the war with Japan.

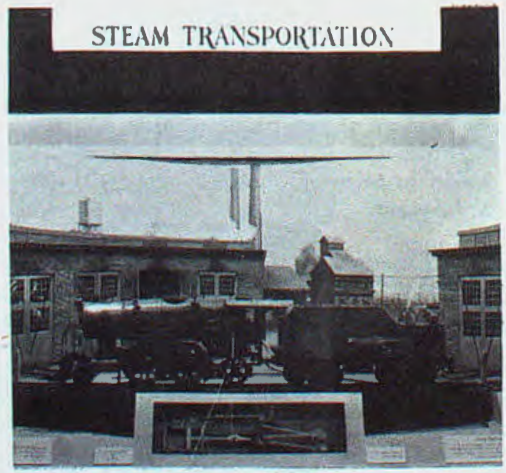


The Missouri Oil exhibit ranks at the top in the museum as a showcase of educational interest. It is a moving display showing how oil is formed, moves through the strata of the sub-surface of the earth, forms in pools and eventually is pumped out of the earth. While the production of oil in Missouri is not as high per year as in some other states, production of the product adds much to the economy of the state. Exploration for the hidden wealth continues. In 1969, 24 wells with a total footage of 8,212 feet were drilled in Missouri. In 1968, statistics show that 72,000 barrels of oil were produced in the state.

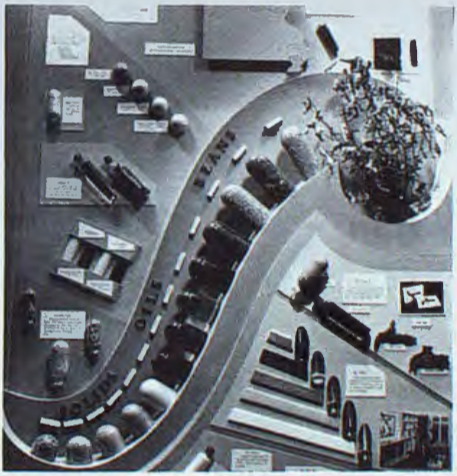
If variety is the spice of life, certainly the museum exhibit called "Missouri Produces Many Non-Metallic Substances", gives proof of the fact. Rooftops are made of asphaltum and slate – both Missouri products. Stone chimneys with clay liners; insulation using sand and limestone; shingles using asbestos and cement; mortar made with sand and cement; wallboards, made with gypsum; glass, a product of silica sand; plus bricks and tile made from varieties of clay; yes, all of these everyday needs of man as he builds are made from non-metallic Missouri products and contribute to the economy of the state.

In 1752 Benjamin Franklin demonstrated the relationship between electricity and lightning which streaks across the heavens during a storm. From that embryonic beginning electricity has become the greatest tool that has ever come into the hands of man. Visitors to the Missouri State Museum will be particularly interested in the electrical display which shows the growth of this indispensable, yet mysterious, fundamental entity of nature since the state was admitted to the Union in 1821. This display is to be found in Science Hall.

In the not too distant past the lonesome whistle of the great steam locomotive traveling at high speeds over trestles and through valleys created a feeling of restlessness among the most home loving. The steam locomotive along with the railway mode of travel is on the wane. Giant diesels have replaced the power of steam and are used to pull the long freight trains that contribute to our economic standards. The steam transportation exhibit in the Museum will bring forth memories of a by-gone era. With the push of a button the wheels of the engine turn.



Without realizing it a visitor in the State Museum is surrounded on all sides by one of the state's most valuable assets – Marble. The Capitol is a prime example of the extensive use of this beautiful and usable material that comes from the quarries. Missouri is a prime marble producing state. There are many varieties of the stone to be found including Ozark Grey, Ozark Tavernelle, Cliffdale, Ste. Genevieve Rose and Napoleon Grey. The Missouri marble exhibit portrays in a small way some of the many and valuable uses of this beautiful and hard stone.



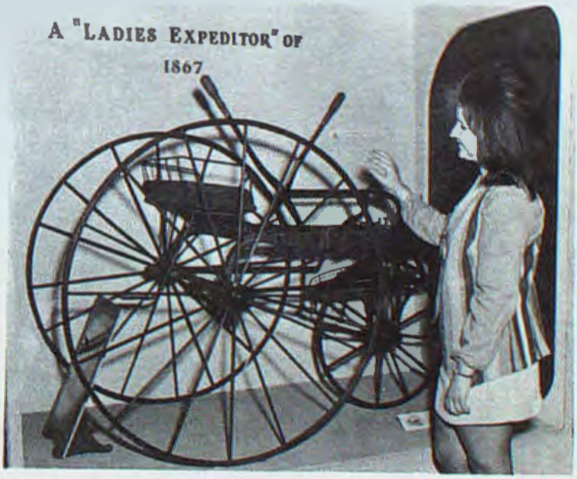
The soybean, an oriental plant, was not known in Missouri until 1909 when seeds of several varieties were received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1968 Missouri farmers grew a record of over 100 million bushels of soybeans, a jump of 20 percent in only two years. This was accomplished by planting a record of 3.6 million acres.

We are told that when the Pilgrim Fathers first set foot on the soil of North America, during the bitter cold winter of 1620, their food supplies were low. Friendly Indians saw their plight and furnished them with eatables. Unquestionably part of their fare was corn. Corn in the early days formed the basis of trade and is one of the state's abundant crops.

Heel-to-toe, shoes produced annually in Missouri would probably circle the world several times. The Indians were perhaps the first craftmen in the field as they made moccasins. However, the making of leather shoes in this area started 162 years ago, before Missouri became a state. Today great proud shoe companies dot the state making every style of shoe known to man and shipping them into all fifty states and to most of the countries of the world. Latest statistics show that in 1969 there were 74 shoe factories in Missouri. They employ in excess of 23,760 people.

For those interested in the history of the land now known as the state of Missouri, History Hall occupying the east wing of the Capitol, is an integral part of the State Museum.

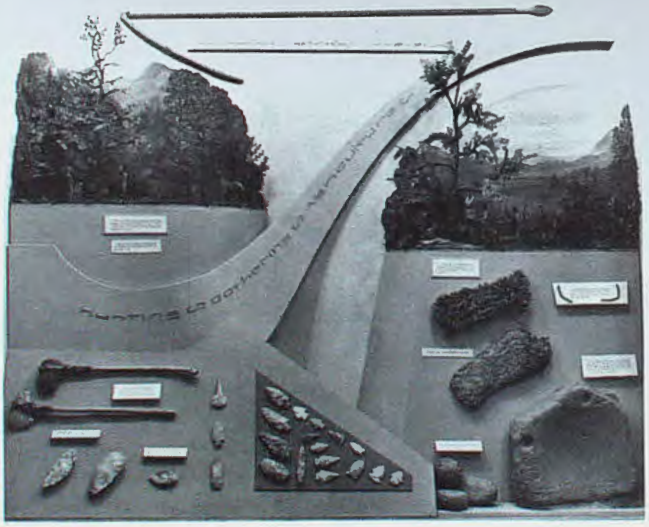
As the visitor enters the hall perhaps the first thing to catch his eye would be the Concord Stage Coach pictured on the back of this brochure. This exhibit, year after year, proves to be one of the most popular in the museum. Yet, in the early days there were other modes of transportation. Further down the hall stands the "surrey with the fringe on top" made popular in song and story. The surrey, in its time, was what the luxury automobile is today to families of affluence. Used for church on Sundays and on other occasions of great importance, the vehicle served its purpose in transporting in splendor the entire family, behind a team of bays, to their destination.



At the extreme east end of History Hall is to be seen the "Ladies Expeditor", a three-wheeled vehicle that was popular in the 1860's with milady as she embarked on social calls. This vehicle was for use on city streets and not designed for use on the muddy county roads of the era.

Richard Gatling started the development of the gun which bears his name back in 1861. The gun pictured here was a far cry from the ancient muzzle loading single shot rifles of the past. Gatling's innovation was operated by a crank, clip fed, and could fire up to 600 round per minute. It proved a lethal weapon and is the forerunner of the machine guns of today. The Gatling gun in the museum always proves to be of extreme interest to menfolk and boys who are well acquainted with it due to television and movies.

After looking at the Gatling gun the visitor will also be interested in walking along the south wall of History Hall and seeing the flags and banners of Missouri's military units which waved on many battlefields. They stand in mute testimony of the heroism of the fighting men of the State.



Over two thousand years ago the Ozark Bluff Dwellers occupied South Missouri. Hunting was their main source of food and they used flint for spears, knives and hoes for their limited tilling of the soil. The women cultivated the crops as well as providing clothing by wrapping feathers around twisted grass. Feather robes and feather lined sandals were common. The sandals were woven of fibrous grasses.

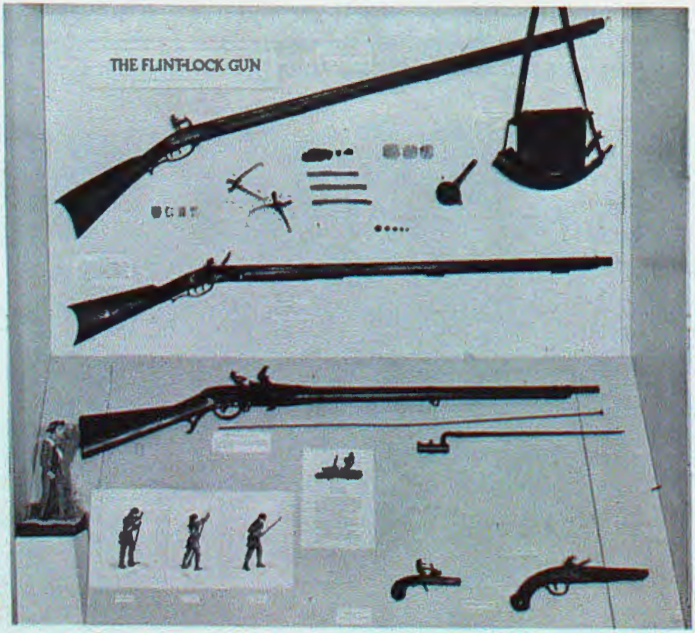
Thousands of years before Christopher Columbus even dreamed of discovering the new world, Indians in great numbers inhabited this area of the wilderness. Like all peoples through the ages, death and burial were tragedies to be taken in stride. Also, like all people since the dawn of man, they performed rituals at the time of death and proper burial sites were chosen. The Indian Burial Display shows a mother and child in their final resting place. Buried with them were some of their most cherished possessions, in this instance, colorful shells. It is believed that the Indians of this period used caves as burial grounds.

Many furs to eventually be worn by society in eastern cities and, in fact, by kings and queens, lords and ladies of the courts of Europe had their beginning in the Indian Fur Trading Posts in Missouri territory. While the Indians used the meat of the animals they trapped and killed with the arrow for food and used the furs for clothing, they also killed enough to furnish the white trader with a bountiful supply of pelts. The fur trader was at his best when dealing with the Indians as he traded them trinkets and a few staple items for valuable furs which he shipped "back east" at a tremendous profit.

As our forefathers moved westward and started to populate the area, now known as Missouri, the forging of a homestead was a long and ardous task. Land had to be cleared. The first log cabin in the clearing was a humble home. Hand hewn rails for fences had to be cut. As families grew larger, additional and larger cabins had to be constructed also log barns and other buildings. The detailed, minature homestead exhibit, pictured here, is one of the most popular in the Museum.

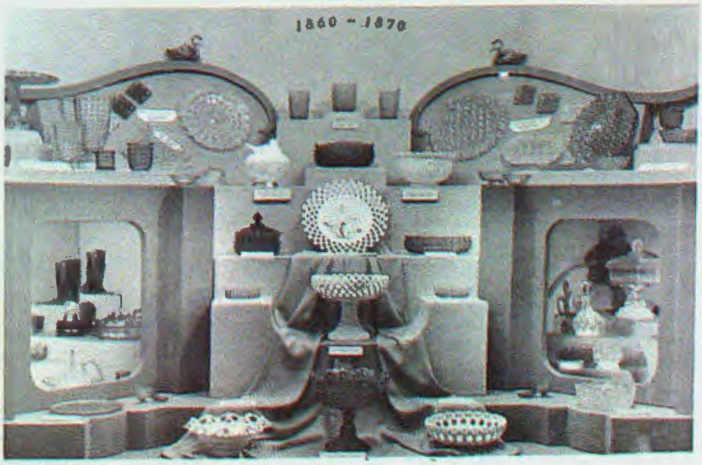
Invention of the steam engine in the 1900's had a far reaching effect on the building of homes in Missouri when it was a fledgling state. Prior to the advent of steam power, building of barns and houses was a monumental task. Each log had to be hand hewn and fitted. The Leach and Baker Mill exhibit shows in minature the operation of the old saw mills and their contribution to better and warmer homes, sturdy barns and safer bridges. Huge logs were hauled to the mill by oxen pulling the wagons. The logs were quickly sawed into planks and other building materials, thus easing the work load of the homesteader as he carved out a place to live and cleared his farmlands.

While the six-shooter may have been the gun that won the West, the long barrel flintlock rifle certainly contributed its part to the opening of wilderness trails that eventually led westward. The gun was a prized possession without which the early pioneer could not have survived for long. In fact, as man forged westward the flintlock gun, powder horn, bag of lead projectiles, and a supply of flints was a necessary part of his gear. He depended on the gun for food. It protected him from predatory animals of the wilderness and prowling bands of savages. It stood him in good stead too when furs were needed to provide clothing for the family.



As man slowly forged westward in conquering the new land of America he met many barriers. Not only were there savages, and uncharted wilderness areas to overcome but mountain streams, creeks and giant rivers were formidable obstructions. Not for long. The hardy pioneers soon found ways to cross these streams. True, they were primitive when we compare them to the giant bridges of today but they worked. With pioneer ingenuity the settlers soon started to design and build barges, hand powered and harnessing the power of the current and thus an obstruction was overcome. The "Link the Land" exhibit in History Hall shows how this feat was accomplished.

Museum exhibits cater to all ages; boys and girls, men and women. There is something for all to see and enjoy. Of particular interest to women visitors is the fine glassware display. The gleaming items in the exhibit have been arranged by museum technicians in such a manner that each piece is shown in all of its brilliance. There is an ever changing lighting effect that causes each piece of the cut glass to emit a myriad of sparkling reflections that bring gasps of astonishment from the ladies and sighs of desire to own such an assortment for their own china cabinet, hutch or breakfront.



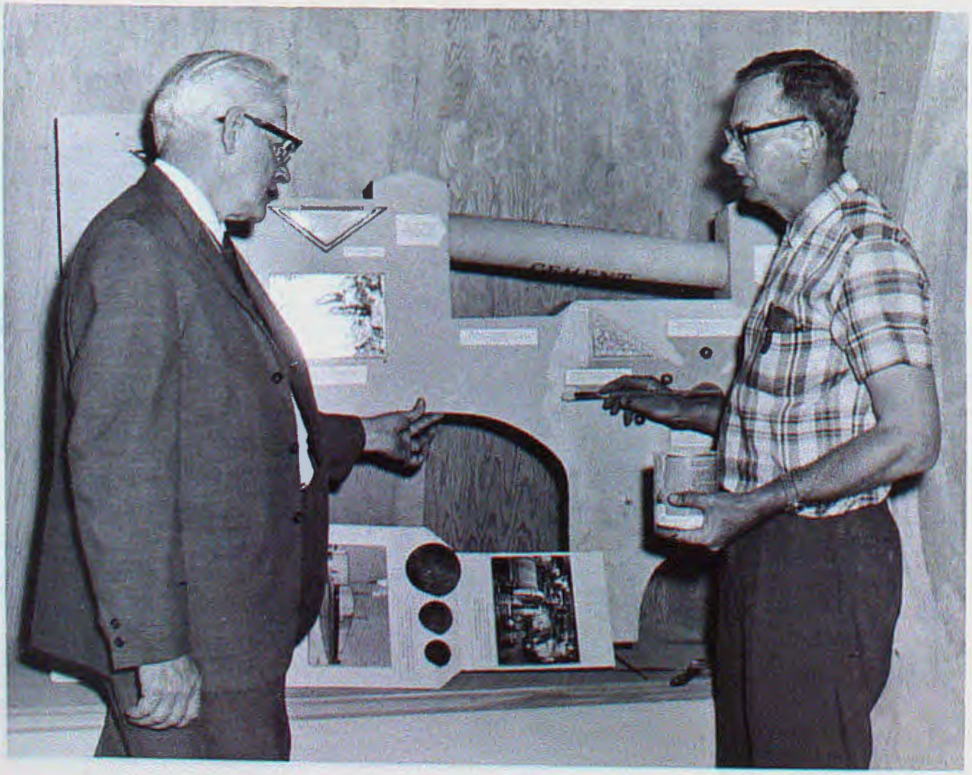
The newest exhibit in the museum deals with life in the 1880's and 90's. It was known as the "Victorian Age", an era of elegance and finery, both in personal wear and home decorations. The Civil War was over. American people had joined hands for a better nation and a finer society. Travel by great river packets, plying between metropolitan areas up and down the great Missouri and giant Mississippi rivers, was a trend of the times. "The Cultural Expansion Post Civil War" exhibit is replete with a gay young lady dressed in the latest fashion of the day; velvet and lace dress, perky little hat perched atop her head. She is shown as looking through the "sitting room" window, viewing a great side-wheel riverboat as it slowly churns upstream on the Missouri River. We can well imagine that she is patiently waiting for her swain to call for a stroll on the riverfront.

The museum staff consists of five plus the acting director. The skills of the staff are many and varied. Each in his own manner contributes his talent toward the building of an exhibit. They must have a smattering of knowledge in many areas including the field of electronics. They are talented in carpentry, decorating, electrical wiring, and often must design odd gears, cams and shafts for the many animated exhibits. Pictured here are three of the staff putting the final touches to a new exhibit which shows some of the more elegant finery of a by-gone era. The collecting of articles to be displayed often proves to be a painstaking chore including hundreds of telephone calls and letters.

It is to be noted the zither is a many stringed instrument. In the display are many models and types of the strange and beautiful creation. Pictured is one with mother-of-pearl used for decorative purposes. In the hands of the professional the zither seems to come to life with its rather strange and melodic tone. The Washington factory was closed in the 1960's but the Schwarzer Zither will never be forgotten. It has become a part of our great Missouri heritage.

Ranking high with the visiting public is the Franz Schwarzer Zither Exhibit located in the southeast corner of History Hall. Schwarzer came to this country from Germany and established a zither factory in Washington, Missouri in 1864. Quickly his fine instruments gained world wide acclaim for their fine craftmanship and beautiful tone. As time changed, the popularity of the instrument gradually waned; however, the museum staff has left no stone unturned to tell the story of the Schwarzer Zither. Over 15 years were spent in accumulating the original tools, benches, etc., used by Schwarzer in his factory. Visitors are also treated to the music of the unusual instruments through means of modern electronics which adds a wealth of interest to the display.

WHAT? WHY? WHERE? WHEN? WHICH? -- are the five W's that must be considered when an exhibit for the museum is first considered. What must be displayed? Why should it be worthy of being put on display? Where in the museum would be the proper place for it? Which members of the staff should be assigned to the multitude of details involved? An exhibit is not an overnight undertaking by any matter of means. Drawings must be made, lighting conditions considered, moving parts built, tried and tested; cases for the exhibit must be constructed. Often years pass from the time a display is planned and its first public showing. Pictured is Mr. Gerald Massie, acting director of the museum, working with one of the technicians on the last detail of the finished exhibit.



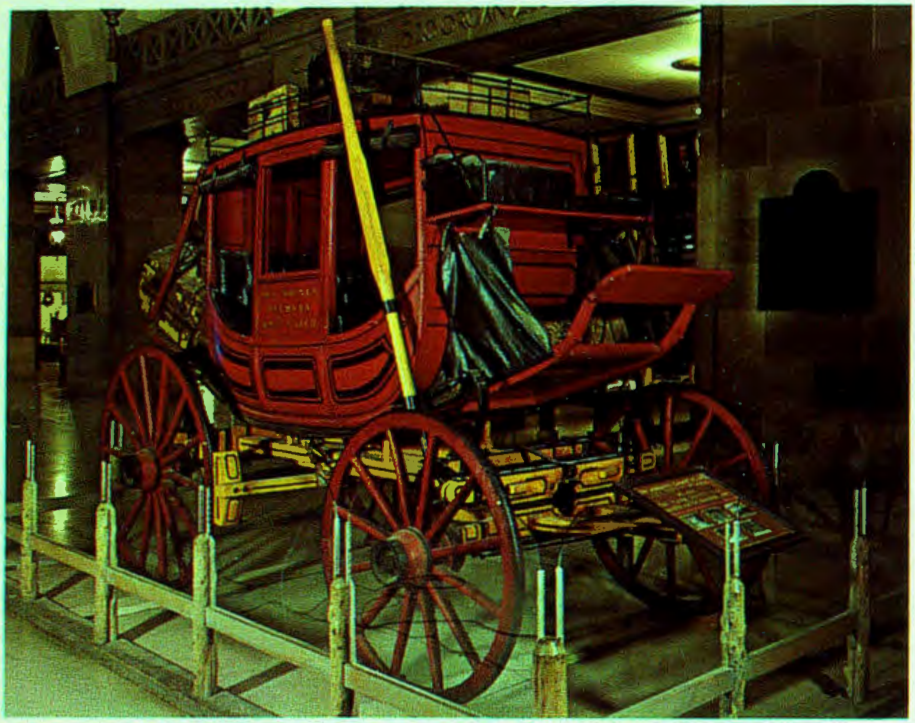
MISSOURI STATE MUSEUM

ADMISSION: FREE

HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Daily

TOURS: Every half hour until 4:30 p.m.
Except Saturday and Sunday
when the tours are every hour

For group tours write:
Division of Planning & Construction
State Capitol
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101



A stagecoach, built in Palmyra, Missouri, in 1840, was humorously called the Tri-Weekly Stage: "Tried one week to get to Des Moines and tried the next to return!" It's in the State Museum along with many other historical items.